CBS MEMORANDUM

FROM: Jack Samson
TO: Irv Drasnin
DATE: September 12, 1975

I reiterate, in spite of your note saying someone on your staff talked to Field & Stream managing editor Dave Petzal, that Field & Stream was never consulted about the making of the documentary, The Guns of Autumn. "Consulting" with a national magazine such as Field & Stream means sitting down and discussing what you intended to do with a 90-minute program ostensibly devoted to the subject of hunting in America. Consulting would have been asking us for information on hunting methods, game management, the history of the hunter's role in the conservation movement, best areas to hunt (not preserve shooting, which you intimated was what all hunters do), the hunting tradition in America, field dressing, and care of meat for human consumption, etc. Having a research assistant say that CBS news was going to make a documentary on hunting and asking Dave Petzal if he knew of any game preserves hardly qualifies as "consulting!" If you are trying to say that Field & Stream had anything to do with input for that incredible piece of propaganda disguised as a "news" documentary, it won't work.

Incidentally, while we are on the subject of propaganda, George Hoover of Information Services, told me yesterday that while the press was allowed to see a preview of The Guns of Autumn, "pressure groups" were not, "under company policy." By pressure groups I assume he meant the National Rifle Association, National Shooting Sports Foundation, Remington Arms, Winchester Arms, Game Conservation International, etc. Tell me, did Cleveland Amory, head of Fund For Animals, a militant anti-hunting organization, get to preview the documentary? Did Alice Herrington (or any of her staff) from Friends of Animals? Surely "pressure groups" cannot only be organizations representing one side of the picture, can they? Did Mr. Amory have anything to do with the creation of Guns of Autumn? Tell me if the last paragraph of the attached story is a mere coincidence, or that the Associated Press made a mistake. I saw AP make very few in my many years with them.

Jack Samson

Jack Samson

ccs: M.J. O'Neill, John Suhler, John Backe, Bill Leonard, George Hoover

Ft. Wayne, IN Journal-Gazette

Tot's face ripped by wolf at game

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TEANECK, N.J. (AP) — A 1year-old girl whose face was ripped by a timber wolf at a Fund for Animals fund-raising event was in good condition Wednesday after plastic surgery, hospital officials said.

Two wolves were on display at a charity soft ball game held last Saturday. Proceeds of the game went to the fund, headed by columnist Cleveland Amory. Police said Amory also attended the game.

A fund spokesman gave this account of the incident:

Frank Stein of Glendale, N.Y., wanted a closeup photograph of his daughter, Melissa, with one of the wolves. The wolf placed his mouth over the baby's cheek and left ear when the baby was held near.

Her father started to pull Melissa away and the owner began pulling on the wolf's leash, but the wolf hung on, ripping open the baby's cheek.

The fund spokesman said the wolf's behavior was normal and indicated acceptance of the baby into its pack. He said the act was one of affection, not malice.

State and federal wildlife agents said they were looking for the owner of the wolves, John Harris of California, for violating state and federal laws in transporting and exhibiting the animals.

Teaneck Police Lt. Robert Croonquist said Harris called him Monday night from Indiana and said the wolf, known as "Rocky the Wolf," was being kept under observation.

According to Croonquist, who said he was unaware of the search by state and federal officials for Harris, the wolves' owner told him he was on his way to Oakland, Calif.

Jack Downs, a law enforcement official for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, said the softball game was played at the Fairleigh Dickinson University baseball field between employes of WCBS-TV in New York and The Record of Hackensack and was sponsored by the Fund for Animals, a group which opposes the killing of wildlife.